

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 38 of the First Extraordinary Session
By Springer

A RESOLUTION to honor and celebrate the 50th anniversary of
Fairfield Church of Christ.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to the dedicated members of those exemplary organizations, who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfield Church of Christ congregation is most assuredly one such extraordinary group of people who are deserving of praise and commendation; and

WHEREAS, in February, 1999, the congregation of the Fairfield Church of Christ will look back at their 50 years of positive influence in the community and the many different mission points by which they have helped to carry the Gospel; and

WHEREAS, the first tentative plans for the Fairfield congregation were initiated at a tent meeting at the junction of state highway 48 and state highway 100 in early 1947 by a devoted man of God named Comer Plunkett; and

WHEREAS, the first organizational meeting was held at the Nunnelly church in early 1947 and was attended by representatives from fifteen Church of Christ congregations from across Hickman County; and

WHEREAS, the next meeting of the future Fairfield Church of Christ took place on the first Sunday in June 1947; Church of Christ leaders Willard Collins and Tommy Nicks preached and led singing, respectively, at the thirteen-day gospel meeting; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, a third organizational meeting was held and led by Paul Hunton, Edward Cossett, and W.B. Bradley, with twelve community organizations benevolently supporting the meeting; and

WHEREAS, the success of these three meetings fueled the desire of the Fairfield community for a Church of Christ congregation in their midst; and

WHEREAS, the labor, materials, timber, hauling, sawing, land acquisition, and the many other things that went into erecting the new building were donated, with contributions graciously made by a least ten congregations in the area; and

WHEREAS, the first service in the new building was conducted on the second Sunday of February in 1949, with Brother Bob Yeager having the distinct honor of preaching the first sermon in the new building; and

WHEREAS, later that same year, Fairfield was given the opportunity to host a community gospel meeting that was once again led by Willard Collins and Tommy Nicks; and

WHEREAS, Clyde Beard, Ollie Hudgins, Everett McCoy, and Cave Moss were appointed as the first elders, and J.C. Basford (who still loyally serves, today), Loyal Gossett, and Elgie McCoy were chosen as the first deacons; and

WHEREAS, a number of distinguished and well-respected ministers came to preach at Fairfield's Sunday services during the first few years of the new congregation; and

WHEREAS, Mike Kelley currently fills the prominent position of pulpit minister with Darren Shavers responsibly filling the role of youth minister; and

WHEREAS, as a result of tremendous growth, the Fairfield Church of Christ congregation moved into its present building on May 21, 1961; and

WHEREAS, as the congregation continued to grow, a new wing was built in 1988; this addition provided the Fairfield Church of Christ with new offices, a library, and new classrooms; and

WHEREAS, at the present time, plans are being formulated for the construction of a new multipurpose building; and

WHEREAS, after having established a congregation in the immediate community, the Fairfield Church of Christ has branched out to other areas of the United States and the world; and

WHEREAS, following the command of Jesus to “go ye forth and preach to all nations,” members of the Fairfield congregation have traveled thousands of miles and donated considerable amounts of money over the past 50 years to spread the gospel in Germany, Russia, Korea, Ghana, and West Africa abroad, and Virginia, Georgia, Montana, Kentucky, Indiana, South Dakota, and Mississippi in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, understanding the importance of establishing Christian values early in life, Fairfield constructed a four-bedroom house in 1968 to provide foster care for children, with couples serving as house parents for uprooted children; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, a minister’s home was built beside the church building; the youth minister currently occupies the house; and

WHEREAS, adhering to the scripture in which Jesus tells his disciples that when they feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and provide shelter to the homeless, they also do the same for Him, the members of the Fairfield congregation continually show their benevolent nature by running a clothing project, donating and otherwise providing furniture items to disaster victims, and distributing food pantries and pre-made boxes to the less fortunate; and

WHEREAS, the good people who comprise the membership of the Fairfield Church of Christ congregation personify Paul’s words in I Corinthians 15:58, “Therefore, my beloved

brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord"; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfield Church of Christ is truly one of the great religious organizations and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our state and nation, and the members of this fine congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and join in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Fairfield Church of Christ, salute the congregation's meritorious service to the community, and wish the devoted members of the congregation the best in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.